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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho (Brazil), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.31

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/201 of 22 December 2005 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] which recognizes the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

Noting that the timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Millennium Development Goals, and encouraging affected country parties to include, as appropriate, in their national development strategies measures to combat desertification,

Recognizing the need for the provision of adequate resources for Global Environment Facility focal areas, including land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with a mandate to review the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention,[4]

Recognizing the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner, and also recognizing the provision in section A on budget reform of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session on the programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[5] including the request that the Executive Secretary take additional measures necessary to address those recommendations, ensure that the financial rules are fully respected in the future and report on the matter to the meeting of the Bureau and in the performance report for the biennium 2006-2007,

Noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session to introduce the euro as the budget and accounting currency as from the biennium 2008-2009,[5]

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Noting the activities undertaken within the framework of the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Underlining the importance of the issue of desertification in the process of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular in the context of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions dealing with thematic clusters on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Reaffirms* its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

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[4] ICCD/COP(7)/16/Add.1, decision 3/COP.7.

[5] Ibid., decision 23/COP.7.

[6] A/61/225, sect. II.

3. *Reiterates* its call upon Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, including the pledges made by the international community to the Trust Fund at the Third Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2006, and stresses the importance of the fulfilment of the commitments;

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to make resources available for capacity-building activities in affected country parties implementing the Convention;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with a mandate to review the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention, for submission to the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and invites parties to the Convention, as well as other stakeholders, to submit views and comments to the working group in order to assist it in its work;

7. *Invites* parties to contribute on a voluntary basis either to the Supplementary Fund or in kind to cover the cost of the activities of the intergovernmental intersessional working group in order to allow it to fulfil its mandate;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the implementation of decision 23 of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties pertaining to the introduction of the euro as the budget and accounting currency of the Convention;[5]

9. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the highest appropriate level at the sessions of Conference of the Parties;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial contributions made by countries and other relevant stakeholders to carry out activities in the context of the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification;

11. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to work closely with the secretariat of the Convention in the preparations for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission in areas relevant to the Convention;

12. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[7] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[8]

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

and encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.